Weather Connect Four

Teachers' notes:

Developed by Steve Cooke and Judith Evans.
This activity was first developed in 1995 and last tweaked 26th February 2007.
We have left you spaces on the cards to add your own examples. We have not provided how to play connect four instructions. The ones produced by children themselves are always better looking, but if you don't know how to play look for another connect four activity on this site.
The webaddress for this activity is :http://www.collaborativelearning.org/weatherconnectfour.pdf

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:
The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and sub-jects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available on the internet: "PAPERCLIP'.

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening . They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opin-ions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Weather Connect Four Cards. Print one set in one colour and a second in another colour on card and cut up.

Gordon and Stuart couldn't play football because there was too much water on the pitch.	A ship sank last night because of a storm in the North Sea.	The farmers' crops were ruined by frost last night.	Water pipes burst in people's houses.	Mr Ward was not allowed to water the flowers and grass in his garden.
The fields next to the river were flooded.	All bus services had to stop when thick fog covered the city centre.	Mr Patel couldn't start his car on a frosty morning.	John fainted because of the heat.	Shops sold out of ice cream and cold drinks.
Flooding made a lot of people homeless in Bang-ladesh.	A hurricane swept across America and destroyed many houses.	The airport had to close because the planes couldn't see the runway.	Freezers in shops broke down during the heatwave.	Many cars crashed on the foggy motorway.
The grass in the park turned dry and brown.	Chimneys fell down and roof slates were blown off houses.	Emma could not go sailing because it was too calm.	Rachel couldn't get her kite to fly.	Farmers in Somalia could not grow enough crops.

Weather Connect Four Cards. Add pictures and print one set in one colour and a second in another colour on card and cut up.

The clothes on the washing line took a long time to dry.	Rivers stopped flowing and dried up.	Fatima had to water all the plants in her garden every day.	Julie's arms and legs got burned when she was at the seaside.	There was a big forest fire in Australia.
Bad light stopped play in the cricket match.	The strawberries stayed green and didn't turn red.	The farmers' crops didn't become ripe.	Devika couldn't take any photos because there wasn't enough light.	Seema couldn't see the moon or stars when she looked at the sky one night.
Blizzards made driving very dangerous.	Cars got stuck in deep snowdrifts.			

Weather Connect Four

not enough rain	too much wind	not enough sunshine	too much snow
too much sunshine	too much cloud	too much fog	too much rain

This is the top half of the connect four board which you need to glue to the bottom half using this as the flap.

This is the bottom half of the connect four board which you need to glueto the top half after you have cut this bit off.

too cold	too hot	not enough wind	not enough rain
too much wind	not enough sunshine	too much snow	too much sunshine
too much fog	too much cloud	too much rain	too cold